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LITERATURE.

NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

Life in the West: Back-wood Leaves and Prairie Flowers. Rough Sketches on the Borders of the Picturesque, the Sublime, and Ridiculous. Extracts from the Note-Book of Morleigh in Search of an Estate.

Praise is ever the most pleasurable part of criticism. The author who puts it in our power to commend, confers upon us a real satisfaction, such as the recognition of merit in any shape must ever impart to minds which can appreciate its claims; but to the critic, who must necessarily wade through many sterile regions, these spots of paradisiacal ground must seem like the oasis of the desert. "Life in the West" is one of the most refreshing, the most powerfully descriptive, and most animated of the works which have appeared for a long date. Its air of truthful reality at once arrests the attention, and while we read on, we feel a momentarily-increasing interest, a growing perception of the exciting, living, breathing realities of what it describes, that makes it impossible for us to shake off its hold upon us, even if it were less pleasurable, and we were so willing. The work not only arrests our attention at the beginning, but it has that rarest of all qualities—its interest goes on momentarily increasing to its closing page. The latter part of the work is full of the highest scenic power; the localities of its transactions are replete with wild grandeur, while the hosts of congregated actors, decked in the differing hues of our humanity, and vested with the graduated degrees of civilization, form an assemblage of such wild novelty and such powerful interest, as fiction in her highest flights would fail to trace out in her airy speculations. In truth, the work is one of the richest novelty, and most striking power.

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The author sets out with his embarkation on board the British Queen, in a rich vein of humorous excitement. All is alive with hurry, bustle, and frolic. The passengers begin to develope themselves, and there is just that broad contrast and opposition of character which accident so often and so oddly jumbles together, and which, while it is so full of comic humour, reminds us of the broad painting of the Flemish school. Most of us know what curious sort of républies float about on the world of waters in these steaming citadels; and aptly indeed has our author chronicled the freaks, the fancies, the contentions, the confusions, of these storm-tossed Babels. The sublime and the ridiculous go hand in hand; for while some of the most mirthful scenes imaginable move us to laughter, they are finely and effectively contrasted with the frowning storm and the darkling tempest, and all the wild horror and stern magnificence of scenes in which we are almost made to hear the winds roaring and to see the lightnings flashing.

It is in this portion of the work that we find the details of "Morleigh in Search of an Estate." This gentleman is supposed to be one of the passengers on board the British Queen, and contributes his share towards the amusement of the company by relating his adventures when in search of an estate in which he might domesticate himself amongst "*the finest pisantry in the world;*" and here again we have the touching and the ludicrous strikingly contrasting each other. If we were to find fault with an author who has pleased us so much, we should do it in this place. These Irish tales deserved a separate publication. They are among the most truthful and natural of those many traits and legends for which we are indebted to our unhappy, but yet strangely mirthful in her misery, sister kingdom. The dangers of the sea being, however, passed, our author debarks at last, and we follow him with charmed attention through scenes of infinite variety, and all bearing a newness of aspect to ourselves eminently qualified to rivet the attention. We have here painted with a few bold effective strokes, and dashed off with broad and striking colouring, scene upon scene and portrait upon portrait, of the habitations and inhabitants of the "far west." The mother country may look upon her colonial child in all the changed and changing aspects of her character, a ceaseless energy debased into individual selfishness, vibrating through every single pulse of her collective population: while the student of nature may look farther, and, watching the phases of the Indian character, may weigh, and mark, and learn, how much contact with so called, but miscalled, Christian nations may debase uncivilized nature, instead of raising, ennobling, and exalting its condition.

The work will of necessity be widely read. Those who may not seek it from desire of amusement, will do so for the sake of obtaining the latest, most clear-sighted, most splendid, and impartial description of our brother Jonathan that can be procured. As a matter of necessary information this will be done, while, if insight into nature, power of description, and novelty of scene, can satisfy the general reader, here he must be amply gratified. The author in his most laconic preface says, "that three of the following papers have

already met the public eye, in the pages of a leading London periodical;" and we have much pleasure in remembering that it was our own pages which were so enriched.

Our extract refers to a payment-day between the United States and Native Indians.

" 'Alles vous au payment?' demanded old Grignon, speaking for the first time. I answered in the affirmative. He then said I should be there time enough, as the payment would not be made for nearly a week, as the Indians had not received due notice, and had not come into the camp yet. I was glad to hear it, and resolved to halt in such good quarters that night. At four, we sat down to a very savoury mess of stewed wild ducks, prairie hens, and vegetables; delicious bread, butter, potatoes, coffee, and plum pies. During dinner, our host was frequently disturbed by the brusque and impertinent language of one of the Indians, who had approached the house in my company. This man, with the ferocious eye, strode round the table, his wild blanket thrown behind him, revealing various parts of his gaunt and naked body—an unpleasing sight—while his long black and grey locks streamed down his shoulders. My suspicions were not at all quieted by my host saying—' *Il est fou—c'est un fou,*' and ' *son père était fou aussi;* in fact, all his family are madmen,' continued he. ' He wants me to give him flour and pork, on credit, of course, and the moment he is paid and gets at the whisky, he'll forget all about it, and threaten to scalp me, if I say a word.' Nevertheless, this mad Indian had method in his madness, for he did not leave the house until his wants were supplied. I afterwards saw him embark in his canoe, with his wife and sundry old squaws and children, and no less than five hungry looking dogs. At sunset, we were surprised by a loud shout, and running to the door, beheld a gaily painted canoe, sculled along by four handsomely-dressed young men; they beached their boat handsomely, and sundry Indians and a white and half-breed marched up to the house. All the Indians, half-breeds and traders, made a sort of humble salutation to a dirty, mean-looking little Indian, with a large mouth, bandy legs, a quick eye, and mean-looking brow; and while I was considering why this worshipful chimney-sweeper, in his dirty old blanket, was paid so much attention, my host's brother whispered in my ear, ' C'est Osh Cosh le Brave, chief of the Menomenee Indians.' His pipe-bearer soon fixed the red stone calumet to a long flat stem, richly ornamented with red and green feathers, and the chief began whiffing away like a Turkish bashaw. Observing that his coarse black hair hung down over his face, and his cheeks were covered with black dirt, I inquired if any accident had befallen his excellency, or royal highness. The answer was brief: ' The chief is in decent mourning for one of his sons, lately deceased.' I thought of the ancient custom of the Jews—how David humbled himself in sackcloth and ashes, &c. The contents of the canoe were soon transferred to the floor of our apartment; parlour and hall was encumbered with curiously-wrought mats, buffalo robes, blankets, neatly painted and carved paddles, &c.; while the young men sat on their haunches, in the midst of their tawdry finery, polishing their tomahawk-pipes, and sending round skunk and fishers'-skins full of nica-nic and Indian tobacco. The chief was in a very bad humour. He had been to the payment-ground, and was displeased because the whole tribe were not ready to receive him. He did not approve of the new mode of taking the census of his tribe, wishing the chiefs to receive the money, and divide it as they thought proper. He therefore left his band to prepare his wigwams and lodges, and came down the river, thus slenderly attended, to consult with his old friend and staunch ally, Grignon, the trader. Indeed, Grignon's son was in the canoe with him, and I sup-

pose it was he that induced the chief to take such a decided step. Just as we sat down to supper, our ears were saluted by a loud, wild, discordant song, raised on the river by a large band of half-breeds and Indians, who were pushing two heavy barges, full of flour, grain, and pork, to the payment-ground; for part of the payment was to be made in flour, grain, and beef, pork also. They had been a week pulling those unwieldy barges up the rapids. The wild chorus of those savage boatmen resembled the Canadian songs—half singing, half talking, half howling, and though bearable at a little distance, was exceedingly unpleasant to hear nigh at hand. Old Grignon went out and invited the head men in charge to come into tea. Osh Cosh declined sitting at the table. He was served with wild-duck stew, tea, and cakes, on a stool in the chimney-corner. Tea over, Osh Cosh signified his intention to make a speech, and profound silence being observed, he stood up before the red embers of the fire, dropped his blanket from his shoulders round his loins, and raising his right hand, spoke in a deep, yet clear and somewhat sonorous voice, without stopping, for at least half an hour, my friend the bluff Frenchman interpreting what he said, to me, from time to time. The speech, from first to last, was in the declamatory style, and against whisky. He said he had seen many barrels lying in the reeds, waiting to be broached when the payment was made; but he would set his face against any such underhand proceedings. Fire-water (*iscodaywabo*) was the secret poison—the knife with which the Shemookmen (the American, or long knife) destroyed his young men. He would set his face against this fire-water; he would tell the agent (or money-carrier) that he would rather see all his money thrown into the river than lose a single warrior by drunkenness and brawling. He then reverted to what occurred at the last payment: ‘a man, goaded to madness with fire-water, killed two women, and fired at a man; the band to which the women belonged rose to a man, rushed upon the drunken madman, what they did you all witnessed, and, I shame to say, I witnessed also,’ said the chief. ‘They threw him on the great council fire, and he was burnt. The white men fled—the pale faces were filled with fear; it is not right they should bring away such evil reports. I am resolved to preserve order in the camp, and set my face against the whisky-traders. ‘Caun whisky—caun whisky!’ and Osh Cosh sat down, in the midst of a loud, approving grunt.”

On the Use and Study of History. By W. TORRENS McCULLAGH, LL.B., Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and of the Archaeological Society of Ireland.

The lectures which are here combined into a volume were originally delivered at the Mechanics' Institution, at the edifice which was formerly, and is still, called the Royal Exchange of Dublin. If we may infer the capabilities of the minds thus addressed from the quality of the mental aliment here proffered to them, we are at once compelled to form a very high estimate of this mechanic audience, and our consequent satisfaction is both great and real, for we rejoice in the success of these laudable endeavours to elevate morally and mentally the faculties and the pleasures of the operative classes. Mr. McCullagh is a man of no ordinary powers of mind: his eloquence is fervid; his scope is comprehensive; and his principles liberal, in the true and not the hackneyed sense of the word. History is a study that the very hierarchs of heaven might bend down their

attentive gaze to learn and ponder over ; but when the page is unfolded to our own race, when it presents to us, in fact, the records of our common nature, matter of more absorbing interest could hardly, we should say, be propounded to us. The narrow scope of our own faculties is, however, too apt to contract this far expanse outspread in the fields of time, within the paltry limits of a near-sighted vision. Mr. M'Cullagh's view of the use and study of history is admirably calculated to place the subject in the strong light of its own interest before us : the interest that must needs attach to the story of a national life. Our author would teach us, instead of looking at disjointed and isolated facts, to view something like a compendious whole in history : to trace the progress of society ; to ponder over its changes ; to compare the resemblance and conformity of nations ; to measure the parallelisms of states : in short, to learn what our own nature is when successive millions congregate in masses, and myriads of pulses beat in the body corporate of empire.

In fact, it might well be said that this volume of lectures is ably calculated to make men *think* on the subject of history. To rouse us out of that slothful sort of perusal in which the mere visual orb dozes over the narrative of disjointed deeds, seeing the bare fact, but altogether unable to take in its precursors or its consequences ; to make us embrace the cycles of national duration ; to trace an empire from its cradle to its grave, and so deduct the highest of moral lessons. In thus endeavouring to raise the mind to a great subject, our author is also striving to elevate the man. Herein lies the metaphysical value of the work. But it has also a practical one : it congregates together a crowd of historians, giving brief but happy summaries of their characters, with much judgment but with little method, among whom the student may choose his acquaintance, and by whose means he may best extend his knowledge, while of their introducer's glowing earnestness and eloquence we can scarcely speak too highly, as the following will prove.

" We are now to enter for a short time the Halls of the Past. To feel ourselves at home, or even upon a familiar footing there, we must come frequently, and linger long. It is a mighty temple, this of Time ; and its aisles and galleries are beyond the strength of any man to visit, so as to become acquainted thoroughly with them all, in the brief space ordinarily devoted thereto. In each are objects of more or less curiosity and worth ; in each dwell calmly and apart, artists whose memory is befittingly enshrined by their works. Therefore did they live ; thus are they judged. Many of no repute are there, and few men remember, few men honour them. Others, good-humoured, smiling, very convenient minor gods, are approached without much reverence, and disregarded without fear. Some cannot be propitiated without costly sacrifices of time and labour ; in return they have solid and practical boons to bestow, whose want we could ill supply from any other sources. It is not their function, however, to inspire us with emotions of deep fear or high enthusiasm ; vices and virtues are, in their oracles, spoken of as *faits accomplis* ; and the general results of misery or comfort, health or disease, occupy the more conspicuous place in their philosophy.

" Finally, there are the poet-philosophers of all climes and tongues,—the glorious spirits of creative genius,—the ruling deities of that hallowed realm,—the great *lotoses*,—the faithful and true Witnesses of Time !

"A good historical library is a great gallery of art. The first-rate works are few, and far enough between. Let us pay all homage to their majesty,—the true majesty of human nature,—the true testimony upon earth of the divinity that is, and yet is not, amongst us,—that seems perennially to claim back this wrecked, though still fair world, as its familiar though long alienated home. Yes—there is in the inexpressible beauty of great works—the royalties of art, a transient lifting of the veil of commonplace, that hides out from us a better and a higher world. They are flickerings of that light, which even when most faint, has never altogether died out upon earth,—lest hope, left utterly in darkness, had wept itself blind in despair."

"Wherein lies the essential difference, then, between the highest productions of genius, and those of meaner merit? I think it lies in the different degree of their vitality. The flesh of Rothwell reddens in your grasp; the lips and eyes of Burton quiver with emotion. It is not merely that they are better drawn or tinted; it is not this, or that, or the other trick o' the brush, that renders them thus transcendently vital, animate, lifeful. That might be taught or copied; but 'tis that which cannot be taught which never was, and never will be copied—their power of utterance, the voice wherewith they're gifted—their mastery over our minds, by making us believe that the beings they represent are there, having something to say to us,—this is their 'right divine' to bear rule over our understandings and affections."

A General Armoury of England, Scotland, and Ireland. By JOHN BURKE, Esq., Author of "the Peerage and Baronetage," "History of the Commoners," &c. and JOHN BERNARD BURKE, Esq., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-law.

Heraldry ought not to be looked upon as a dry study: by its means we may trace many of the avenues of the past, discovering by the way curious antiquarian records, origins of customs and of manners, and numerous elucidatory lights on history. The crusades seem to have given birth to heraldry, or at least about that date its insignia became more stamped and tangible. Previously tribes, hordes, and nations, were to be distinguished from each other by peculiar adopted badges, until about the period of the holy wars, when the distinctive tokens became somewhat more arbitrarily arranged and specified. From that day to this the pride of heraldic honours has descended to us in an ever deepening channel, and never more conspicuously displayed than in those splendid scenes of tilt and tournament, in which our forefathers delighted, and which contributed so much to the promulgation of emblazoned arms. We might easily trace out a most important as well as most romantic history, if we were to follow out these tracts, but in returning to this work we shall perhaps do it more useful justice if we view it in its really utilitarian light. It is in truth a most valuable, copious, and voluminous tome. As a reference of high authority and constant usefulness, and one that every private gentleman, as well as every library, ought to possess. Its splendidly emblazoned title-page is a perfect *chef-d'œuvre* of modern art.

History of Christian Missions, from the Reformation to the present time. By A. HUIE, Author of "The History of the Jews," and "Records of Female Piety."

This volume of missionary labours evidences much of laborious research and pains-taking investigation. We doubt not that Mr. Huie has stedfastly purposed, throughout the whole of his records of these Christian missions, to preserve the strictest impartiality and fair dealing; but since we hold it to be an impossibility for a man not to have some tendency to his own opinions, the very absence of such a tendency manifesting that he can have no opinions at all, so we do not impute it to Mr. Huie as a fault, but as a mere natural result of pre-formed sentiments, that he shows a leaning, and that too a strong one, in favour of dissent. We blame no man for holding his own belief, and still less for avowing it; but we should have liked better to have seen the missionary labours of the Established Church of England left somewhat less in the back ground. Her exertions in Africa, the East Indies, Australia, and New Zealand, deserved stronger specification. We find too occasionally an obscurity and vagueness in the narrated matter, leaving us sometimes in doubt as to what parties have really been the actors in the events the author is recording, that either leave us in perplexity or compel us to retrace our way to remove the ambiguity, by a renewed reference to matter we have already passed over. Still we are bound to say that there is a great amount of information in this volume; beginning with the Jesuits in the East Indies, headed by Frances Xavier, a man whom all nations and all creeds ought to lay aside their prejudices to honour, himself the first, and we had almost said the greatest of the missionary corps, only that the remembrance of Swartz arrests our pen, and compels us to trace his name as being well entitled to parallel estimation, down to the Wesleyan labourers in the modern vineyard, all take successive place in this chronological detail; but the portion which has evidently been written under the influence of most feeling, and seemingly in the possession of more ample means of information, is the part devoted to the missions of Polynesia: we have here a more actual presence of the people, and both interesting and instructive views of their manners and superstitions while under the domination of a heathen faith, and the melting influence of the true glory of Christianity breaking in on a country cradled in debasing idolatries. We are too repeatedly reminded of the sacred history. Some of its deeply interesting events are here, with little change, acted over again. This similitude will be easily traced in the following.

"Under an impression that a crisis was approaching in reference to the supremacy of Christianity or Paganism, the missionaries set apart the fourteenth July 1815 as a day of solemn fasting and prayer to God for guidance. Soon after, in consequence of an invitation from the heathen chiefs, Pomare and the christian refugees passed over to Tahiti, where for a time negotiations proceeded, having as their object the restoration of peace between the opposed parties. In these deliberations, however, the idolaters were insincere, and they were merely watching an opportunity to cut off both the king and his adherents.

The twelfth of November was a Sabbath ; and in the forenoon Pomare, with his people, in number about eight hundred, assembled for public worship at a place called Narii, in the district of Atahuru. As the service was about to commence, a firing of muskets was heard, and, looking out of the building in which they were congregated, the Christians beheld a large body of armed men, attended by the flag of the gods, and other emblems of idolatry, marching round a distant point of land, and advancing towards them. The king, reminding his people that they were under the protection of the Lord of Hosts, commanded that the service should proceed ; after which, he formed his troops in order of battle. He had under his command not merely people from Tahiti and Eimeo, but likewise some auxiliaries from the adjoining islands, commanded by Mahine, chief of Huahine, and Pomarevahine, daughter of the chief of Raiatea. Stationing himself in a canoe with a company of musketeers, he annoyed the flank of the enemy nearest the sea ; while in another there was a swivel, directed by an Englishman, called Joe by the natives, which did considerable execution.

The impetuous onset of the idolatrous army obliged the vanguard of the Christians to give way after a stout resistance. The assailants pursued their advantage until they were arrested by the troops commanded by Mahine and his Amazon coadjutor, who firmly maintained their ground. The ardour which had animated the pagans while victory seemed likely to follow their attack, was considerably diminished : but the fortune of the day was finally determined by the death of Upufara, chief of Papara, and general of the heathen forces. He was shot by Raheae, one of Mahine's followers ; and his men in consequence gave way.Flushed with success, the king's warriors were preparing to pursue their fleeing enemy, when he himself came up, and exclaimed, Atira ! it is enough ! strictly forbidding them to injure either the families or property of the vanquished. In the evening he assembled his followers, and returned thanks to God for the protection which had been extended to them in the hour of battle. A chosen band was despatched to the national temple at Tautira, in the district of Taiarabu, with orders to destroy every vestige of superstition there. This party accomplished their commission without resistance ; and, after demolishing the fane and burning the other appendages of image-worship, they brought back to the camp the great idol, called by the Tahitians 'the body of Oro.' Mr. Ellis says, 'it was subsequently fixed up as a post in the king's kitchen, and used in a most contemptuous manner, by having baskets of food suspended from it ; and finally it was riven up for fuel.'

Again,

" Tamatoa, chief of Raiatea, whom his subjects had regarded as a divinity, was brought under the influence of the truth while on a visit to Pomare ; and, on his return to his dominions, informed his subjects of what had taken place at Tahiti, inviting them to follow the example set by their neighbours. About a third of the people agreed to this proposal. Shortly after this, the king was seized with a severe illness ; and when every effort to restore his health had failed, it was proposed by one of the Christians to destroy Oro, the great national idol, whose temple at Opoa, was a rendezvous for the heathens of many adjacent islands. This was accordingly done, in the hope that they might thereby conciliate the favour of God to their sovereign, who unquestionably recovered. The pagans, irritated by this bold step, resolved to attack the votaries of the new faith, whose proposals for peace were disdainfully rejected. The night before the assault was spent very differently by the two parties ; the heathens feasting, rioting, and exulting in the prospect of an easy victory, while the others were occupied in prayer and making the necessary

preparations for defence. In consequence of a long shoal of sand which stretched from the place of the christian encampment, their enemies were obliged to land at about half a mile's distance ; and one of Tamatoa's best warriors requested leave to rush upon them with a chosen band, to assail them in the confusion of debarkation. Making a circuit behind the brushwood, that he might be unseen by the enemy, he attacked them ; and, after a brief struggle, they threw away their arms and fled. They expected to be butchered in cold blood, as had been usual in former wars. The conquerors, however, merely conducted those made prisoners into the presence of the prince, one of whose attendants assured them that they would not be molested. When the chief of Tahaa, who had acted as the leader, was brought before Tamatoa, he exclaimed, pale and trembling, ‘Am I dead?’ The victor replied, ‘No, brother; cease to tremble; you have been preserved by Jesus.’ An entertainment was provided for the captives, who were so struck with the treatment they received, that they resolved to profess the religion of their conquerors. Within the space of three days, not a temple or idol remained in Raiatea or Tahaa. About the same time, paganism was abolished in Huaheine, Borabora, and other islands. The author of *Polynesian Researches* remarks, that ‘a change so important in its character, so rapid in its progress, so decisive in its influence, sublime almost in proportion to the feebleness of the agency by which it was, under God, accomplished, although effected on but a small tribe or people, is perhaps not exceeded in the history of nations or the revolutions of empires, that have so often altered the moral and civil aspect of our world.’

Tales of the Braganza; with Scenes and Sketches. By T. H. USBORNE, Esq., author of “A New Guide to the Levant, Egypt, Syria, Greece,” etc.

This volume of tales and travels is a sort of nondescript, belonging to neither class, its production being the mere ebullition of good-humour conjoined to an inky inclination. In fact, our author's prefatory introduction of himself is rather that of an appealant for praise than as being conscious of demerit. He thus assures the reader, “ You will find me a pleasant enough companion along the road, and henceforth we shall jog on together the best of possible friends ;” and setting out with this kind intention of companionship and good-fellowship, criticism itself would be ungracious, if it were to quarrel with him on the way.

Thus, then, it was—and as we are introduced to real names, we believe that this is part and parcel of the *fact* portion of the narrative—the author made a voyage to Spain, the name of the vessel was the Braganza, the tales were told by the gleeful companions who chanced to be his fellow-voyagers, and thus the volume receives its patronymic of “Tales of the Braganza.”

These tales are diversified, and consequently the book has the great charm, if not the great merit, of variety, helped, too, by the light-heartedness of the style of its author, who every now and then shows glimpses of himself, and we doubt not contributed his ample share towards the good-fellowship of the Braganza. The badinage on board is, in fact, as spirited and acceptable as any portion of the work, and its spice of

impertinence—such, for instance, as the following sample of satire on matrimonial trade speculations in the East—provocative enough of mirth. Speaking of the manner in which wives are imported,

"‘ In the simplest possible manner. The secretary of the board of trade writes to his London correspondent something in this fashion :—‘ Wanted some fifty or a hundred young ladies with all the necessary accomplishments, between fifteen and two-and-twenty, sound white teeth, hair of any colour (but red or sandy), (and a clear healthy complexion indispensable.’ A circular is then drawn up and forwarded to all the boarding schools and polite seminaries round the metropolis ; in the country responsible agents are engaged for the business. Well, gentlemen, between the mammas, the mistresses, and the agents, the girls are invoiced, rigged out, and half way on their voyage before they have time to turn round again, with as little trouble as a cask of Madeira, or a package of portable soups. Goods like these, if they arrive in tolerable condition, are seldom or never returned upon the market ; if they don’t suit one they will another, and if the whites won’t have them, they are sure of a good market among the blacks.’ ”

Nevertheless, though we may be beguiled into smiles, we are determined to be just, and we must with real seriousness protest against the revolting horror, so profusely lavished on us in the tale “ Martellier.” To say that we are shocked and disgusted with things that are out of nature is nothing—it is with things that are out of possibility also, happily for us. Neither let our author plume himself that he has indulged a luxuriant imagination, even though he may have violated good taste. Imagination is as guiltless of having anything to do with such matters as common sense. *Her* high-appointed office it is to *elevate*, and not to *debase*. This glutting in the shambles of murder, and gloating over grave-yard resurrections, we hold to be a crime as much against good morals as good taste. Neither does it bespeak talent : none of those nice touches, which mark the artist-like perception of our nature can ever be found in such scenes as these, since of necessity there can be nothing of nature in them : there can neither be the miniature pencilling of delicate traits, nor the broad bold colourings of strong master passions, and with the absence of nature so must our sympathy be absent also. This species of writing is not good policy. The emptiest head need not be at a loss, since the more wild and improbable its vagaries are, the better. Yet we are wrong in this. Satan himself, in whose dire domains this profanity professes to revel, has ever been a lofty Intelligence, and we had almost said that the puerilities which are fastened upon him are an injustice to that high but all-abused intellect, the evidence of which is only too easily to be found in the mighty domination with which he tyrannizes over so large a portion of our world. And for another reason, though a humble one, this sin of dooming a reader to the companionship of fiends ought not to be attempted—the sort of thing is going entirely out of fashion, for literature has its fashions as well as other modish matters.

But once again returning to our author’s merits, which to ourselves as well as to him must be a far more agreeable topic, we tell him that he is unjust to himself in not indulging his lively moods : anybody can be dull, but genuine gaiety in a writer is a far rarer as well as more

agreeable quality than the best of sorrows and horrors. We have said thus much to him because we doubt not but that we shall meet again, and we hope that it will be in the sunshine and not in the shade.

If the following be not fact, it is extremely well invented. The light-extinguishing regulation had just been put into operation much to the chagrin of our author and his bellipotent companions, the enforcing of which had brought the captain of the Braganza into disrepute.

"In the middle of that same night, the captain was aroused from his slumbers, by a loud and fearful cry of 'Ship ahoy!'

"Without giving himself time to dress, he instantly sprang upon deck. It was as dark as pitch, the rain falling in heavy torrents, though there was scarcely a breath of air stirring: an involuntary shudder came over him; for he was standing, gentle reader, in his shirt!

"'Who calls?—what ship is it?' said he; but no answer was returned, all was still and quiet. Hardly satisfied with this negative security, he traversed the deck with anxious steps, but still nothing was perceptible, that could warrant the least cause for alarm. Just as he was about to descend to his cabin, bitterly cursing, at every step, the ill-timed hoax that had been played upon him, a transient flash of vivid lightning revealed to his astonished eyes a large West India ship, homeward bound, bearing down upon us, with every sail set that she could crowd upon her masts. There was just time to give the necessary orders, when we glided past her like a shot.

"The hoax, which one of our party had played the captain, in revenge for sending us to bed, though perfectly inexcusable in itself, (we must candidly confess,) thus most providentially proved the cause of our safety: for no one had seen the stranger vessel, and in the space of a few more brief minutes, we should have run right into her, and very probably have both perished together in the concussion.

"No allusion was however made to this practical joke by either party, which proved so far favourable, that the captain became less rigid about the lights being out by ten o'clock, and the rest of us particularly careful in abstaining from any further hoax upon one on whom so many lives were depending for their safety."

The Old Red Sandstone; or New Walks in an Old Field. By HUGH MILLER.

Those who may not have been attracted into opening this work in its first edition, and are encouraged to do so now that it has passed into a second, will find themselves most agreeably disappointed in its tone and style, if they expect nothing beyond a dry geological book. It reminds us of cheery old Isaac Walton, and has quite a summer freshness over its internal deposits, just as the dewy or sun-brightened herbage overspreads the strata which is its subject matter. Fresh, feeling, and unaffected, we become in the first few pages involuntarily interested in the author, and his unassuming introduction of himself is well calculated to make us stand on terms of real complacency and friendly feeling with him. As a geological work it has a high value. Mr. Miller has divided his descriptions into those of three formations,

Lower, Middle, and Upper. With all the ardour of enthusiasm he has explored the wonders of these strata, tracing up the evidences of extinct existences with the most skilful acumen. Altogether the work unites profound research with the most healthful energy of natural feeling, and will be found as valuable to the geologist and man of science as it will prove acceptable to those who read for merely cheerful occupation.

We give as an extract our author's first embarkation on the troubled waters of this rough world when he commenced those humble occupations, which, being undertaken in the right spirit, have led him to his present position as a man of science.

"It was twenty years last February since I set out a little before sunrise to make my first acquaintance with a life of labour and restraint, and I have rarely had a heavier heart than on that morning. I was but a slim, loose-jointed boy at the time—fond of the pretty intangibilities of romance, and of dreaming when broad awake; and, woful change! I was now going to work at what Burns has instanced in his 'Twa Dogs,' as one of the most disagreeable of all employments,—to work in a quarry. Bating the passing uneasiness occasioned by a few gloomy anticipations, the portion of my life which had already gone by had been happy beyond the common lot. I had been a wanderer among rocks and woods,—a reader of curious books when I could get them,—a gleaner of old traditional stories; and now I was going to exchange all my day-dreams, and all my amusements, for the kind of life in which men toil every day that they may be enabled to eat, and eat every day that they may be enabled to toil!

"The quarry in which I wrought lay on the southern shore of a noble inland bay, or frith rather, with a little clear stream on the one side, and a thick fir wood on the other. It had been opened in the Old Red Sand-stone of the district, and was overtopped by a huge bank of diluvial clay, which rose over it in some places to the height of nearly thirty feet, and which at this time was rent and shivered, wherever it presented an open front to the weather, by a recent frost. A heap of loose fragments, which had fallen from above, blocked up the face of the quarry, and my first employment was to clear them away. The friction of the shovel soon blistered my hands, but the pain was by no means very severe, and I wrought hard and willingly, that I might see how the huge strata below, which presented so firm and unbroken a frontage, were to be torn up and removed. Picks, and wedges, and levers, were applied by my brother-workmen; and simple and rude as I had been accustomed to regard these implements, I found I had much to learn in the way of using them. They all proved inefficient, however, and the workmen had to bore into one of the inferior strata, and employ gunpowder. The process was new to me, and I deemed it a highly amusing one: it had the merit, too, of being attended with some such degree of danger as a boating or rock excursion, and had thus an interest independent of its novelty. We had a few capital shots: the fragments flew in every direction; and an immense mass of the diluvium came toppling down, bearing with it two dead birds, that in a recent storm had crept into one of the deeper fissures, to die in the shelter. I felt a new interest in examining them. The one was a pretty cock goldfinch, with its hood of vermillion, and its wings inlaid with the gold to which it owes its name, as unsoiled and smooth as if it had been preserved for a museum. The other, a somewhat rarer bird, of the woodpecker tribe, was variegated with light blue and a grayish yellow. I was engaged in admiring the poor little things, more disposed to be sentimental, perhaps, than if I had been ten years older, and thinking of the contrast between the warmth

and jollity of their green summer haunts, and the cold and darkness of their last retreat, when I heard our employer bidding the workmen lay by their tools. I looked up, and saw the sun sinking behind the thick fir wood beside us, and the long dark shadows of the trees stretching downward towards the shore.

"This was no very formidable beginning of the course of life I had so much dreaded. To be sure, my hands were a little sore, and I felt nearly as much fatigued as if I had been climbing among the rocks; but I had wrought and been useful, and had yet enjoyed the day fully as much as usual. It was no small matter, too, that the evening, converted, by a rare transmutation, into the delicious 'blink of rest' which Burns so truthfully describes, was all my own. I was as light of heart next morning as any of my brother-workmen. There had been a smart frost during the night, and the rime lay white on the grass as we passed onward through the fields; but the sun rose in a clear atmosphere, and the day mellowed, as it advanced, into one of those delightful days of early spring, which give so pleasing an earnest of whatever is mild and genial in the better half of the year. All the workmen rest at mid-day, and I went to enjoy my half-hour alone on a mossy knoll in the neighbouring wood, which commands through the trees a wide prospect of the bay and the opposite shore. There was not a wrinkle on the water, nor a cloud in the sky, and the branches were as moveless in the calm as if they had been traced on canvas. From a wooded promontory that stretched half-way across the frith there ascended a thin column of smoke. It rose straight as the line of a plummet for more than a thousand yards, and then, on reaching a thinner stratum of air, spread out equally on every side like the foliage of a stately tree. Ben Wevis rose to the west, white with the yet unwasted snows of winter, and as sharply defined in the clear atmosphere, as if all its sunny slopes and blue retiring hollows had been chiselled in marble. A line of snow ran along the opposite hills; all above was white, and all below was purple. They reminded me of the pretty French story, in which an old artist is described as tasking the ingenuity of his future son-in-law, by giving him as a subject for his pencil a flower-piece composed of only white flowers, the one half of them in their proper colour, the other half of a deep purple, and yet all perfectly natural; and how the young man resolved the riddle and gained his mistress, by introducing a transparent purple vase into the picture, and making the light pass through it on the flowers that were drooping over the edge. I returned to the quarry, convinced that a very exquisite pleasure may be a very cheap one, and that the busiest employments may afford leisure enough to enjoy it."

Thoughts in Rhyme on the Hope of Resurrection, and the Bishopric of Jerusalem. By EDWARD MORSE, A.B. T.C.D. dedicated by permission to the Rev. FRANC SADLEIR, D.D., Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, etc. etc.

Of these poems it is no light commendation to say that they have strongly reminded us of Young. The subjects are lofty, and being so they are necessarily repugnant to all that light and meretricious style of sparkling ornament, which in poems of inferior quality often supply the place of higher merits, much in the same way that adornment so frequently supersedes, and is made to supply the place of native beauty. Mr. Morse's muse is calm, chaste, and lofty. His subjects are of an elevated class. In his *Thoughts on the Bishopric*

of Jerusalem he seizes on the occasion to take an anticipative as well as retrospective view of the Holy Land. We give the opening and the close of this poem as a fair specimen of the poet's power.

" Ye firm-bas'd mountains bend each suppliant knee,
 Ye captive mourners burst your chains—be free ;
 Ye furious Tempests, hoarse with rage, be still ;
 Back, foaming torrents, seek your parent rill ;
 Ye towering Cedars bend your tops to earth,
 Brush with your heads the sod which gave you birth ;
 Check your dark course, ye murky Clouds, away !
 Dare ye *still* hide the sun's celestial ray ?—
 Ye embryo Flashes, clad with lightning-might,
 Urge back your pinions to the womb of night,
 Or if ye burst your shroud, innocuous play
 With harmless brilliance round the orient Day ;—
 Deep Earth, spontaneous from thy bosom now,
 Cast forth rich gems to gird Judea's brow,
 Shed flowrets sweet each straighten'd path along,
 Twine their young buds her raven locks among !—
 Ye sluggish waters of the deep Dead Sea,
 Bound like a war horse from his trappings free,
 Pour forth your streams the pilgrim's feet to cool,
 Clear as the ripples of Siloam's pool ;
 The prodigal returns, the feast is spread,
 Redemption's halo girds each meek, repentant head—
 Again the Day-spring from on high has burst
 On those fair regions where our Faith was nurst."

* * * *

" Nations shall throng to see your thrice-blest land,
 Thick-strew'd with blessings from th' Almighty's hand,
 Beware, beware, lest He who manna shed,
 Should pour Gomorrah's fire-storm on thy head ;
 From Earth's far corners Judah's sons shall march
 In glad procession, 'neath a glorious arch
 Rais'd by the hands of Faith o'er Sion's wall,
 Nor will that arch though tow'ring proudly fall ;
 Each high-pil'd buttress, gorgeous and sublime,
 Shall smile contemptuous at the scythe of Time,
 And why ?—Redemption's seal, the key-stone there,
 With deathless hold shall clench the mass so fair ;
 The banner'd Cross, on spotless folds outspread
 Shall gleam aloft o'er each uncover'd head,
 And add its living rays divinely bright
 To the mild lustre of the seven-fold light ;
 Thy sacred vessels rais'd in triumph there
 Fill'd high shall then baptismal waters bear ;
 Thy sacred trumpets then, with silvery voice
 Shall bid each convert's new-born heart rejoice."

Eucharistica. Meditations and Prayers on the most Holy Eucharist from Old English Divines; with an Introduction. By SAMUEL WILBERFORCE.

This is the second edition of this curious and valuable little book—

curious, because on the first opening we are tempted to think we have got hold of some old manual or missal of the Romish Church. The illuminations are just in the same style; the form and colouring similar; the devices quaint and redolent of purple and gold, while every page is environed by the red rule-line, which used anciently to be the boundary of the interior letter-press. In short, altogether the book awakens pleasant recollections of the days of illustrated vellums and black letter tomes, besides, from its very old-fashionedness, presenting us with an air of novelty.

This, however, is but slight commendation, touching manner rather than matter—exterior style rather than intrinsic worth. In the ease and facility with which the sin of printing is perpetrated in our own times, we are but too likely to be lost in the sand-drifts of modern publications, and to lose the gold which has been sifted out by the hands of our forefathers. They did not rush into print to chronicle against themselves, the idle dreams of heated imaginations, but with cool-headed and pains-taking care committed only the summings up of their judgments to the multiplying process of typography. From these select few, Time has re-selected a still more limited portion to perpetuate and honour, and there can be little wonder, therefore, if such as we retain of our olden authors are more sterling than the multitudinous crowd of the new.

These remarks apply most strongly of all to theological writers. Repose is apt to engender sloth, and we fear that the peaceful balmy days of the church have but lulled her into indolence. We speak of course generally, rejoicing that there are eminent exceptions. Still we may well mourn over the mass of our present sleepy shepherds, though we trust that the sound of the hurricane that is rushing around them may break their supine slumbering. There can be no danger to the church so long as she is true to herself. The peril can only come from within. Unhappily her very prosperity has sapped her strength. We find among her ranks now a days few such men as the old divines, whose heart and all were devoted to her weal. Troublous times rouse men best to their duty. Danger puts us on self-defence. Our forefathers grew strong from coping with peril and persecution, and we too may have a lesson in the same rough school.

Holding the old divines of our church in such high estimation, we are bound to value this little book on the Eucharist highly also. It is an assemblage of all the pious thoughts, and prayers, and meditations which they felt and breathed, and have bequeathed to us for our edification, soundly and judiciously chosen, and formed into this little compendium. Most truly curious and valuable is this minim volume.

The Deformed, Jessy Bell, and Other Poems. By MARY ST. AUBYN.

The circumstances under which this volume appears are such as must not only disarm criticism, but ensure the sympathy of its peruser.

The poems are posthumous, and are edited by the mother of their authoress. Her's was indeed a mournful task—to watch the gradual decay of a beloved child, to trace the daily step towards the dark habitation; and when the bars of its portal were drawn between the departed and the bereaved, there must have been something of a sad satisfaction in thus turning to the mental relics of the lost one, and preparing them, according to a last request, for the publication which is here completed. One of the most consolatory sensations that can diffuse itself over the soul of grief, must surely be found in the mental communion which such registry of thought enables the living to hold with the dead: they yet speak in the sentiments which they have bequeathed to us. They cannot surely be said to have perished, whilst we retain their imperishable thoughts—whilst we retain the very feelings, the very perceptions, the very sympathies, which occupied the heart and spirit. The mortal may have passed for a time away, but the immortal is still with us, and there must break across the sorrowing mind emotions of pure, though of sadly-blent satisfaction, as it traces every evidence of purified feeling, of elevated perception, or of holy aspiration, in the relics of itself that the departed spirit has left behind to testify of what had passed in the secret chambers of the soul. In the little volume of poems now before us, every line written by the child must have been consecrated to the mother.

Of these poems, since we have disclaimed criticism, we think it fairest to allow them to speak for themselves. There is a meditative beauty in the following, but the three closing lines are truly poetical.

"HAPPINESS."

*"Tis passing strange no human happiness
Doth lie in the attainment!—that, to seek
Doth constitute the charm of the thing sought,
Which being gain'd we prize not, but seek on
For joys whose fallacy we have not prov'd!
'Tis thus the disappointed rail at Hope,
And say she hath deceiv'd them, but forget
That *but* for Hope their life had been a blank.*

*You bright, glad sunbeam is but gilded air,
And yet methinks such beams do pour down light,
And warmth, and strength, to bless us here below."*

There is, too, sterling truth and energetic thought in this speech of the "Deformed."

*"Ha! ha! why many things dissolve in air.
The merchant looks upon his store of wealth,
And pride, good sooth, will rise within his heart,
That fortune, or the toil of others' hands,
Hath made him richer than some fellow worm.
To double the amount of that he hath,
He risks his treasures on the seas—winds rage,
The vessel sinks, and soon he finds his wealth,*

His day-dreams, and his pride, dissolved in air !
 The Father doats upon a favour'd son—
 For him neglects all else—then sends him forth
 To play his part in life—ingratitude
 Is all the fruits his partial favour reaps—
 And then he sees his hopes—dissolved in air !
 The hypocrite, with well devised art,
 Toils for the world's approval : if he sin,
 None know it, he hath still a spotless name.
 Years pass, then comes some all unlook'd-for chance,
 And his good name is—all dissolved in air !
 The worldling frets upon his bed of death,
 Nor thinks that life ebbs from him, still he counts
 O'er future years of projects and success—
 But dies—his projects are—dissolved in air."

The Christian Mother ; or, Maternal Duties Exemplified in the Narratives of the Old and New Testament. By MARY MILNER, author of "The Life of Dean Milner."

We have here a second edition of this truly amiable little work, which is as pure in intention as it is successful in execution. This reference to the great exemplars of the Scriptures is one of the highest modes of preaching up our duties, and must have the double influence of example as well as precept. The virtues as well as the vices of our mortal state undergo no changes. Man's passions are always the same, whether he live in the icy or the torrid zone, in the first or the last century of our world ; and therefore the same incitements and the same determents must have an equal efficacy throughout all time. The habit, too, of reference to the examples displayed to us in the Scriptures is one that ought to be generally encouraged, as a means of connecting us more with its realities, and rousing us out of the feeling into which we are too apt to lapse, of considering it in the light of a dead letter. It is on these grounds that we are glad to see this little volume meeting its deserved success, for success it certainly does deserve.

Intimidation ; a Political Satire. By CATO, THE CENSOR.

We are no friend to personalities, for private judgment has little right to point the "slow-moving finger" of public scorn at any man, and our modern Cato ought to beware of assuming an attitude of "Intimidation," since he sets out as a champion, armed at all points, and with lance in rest, against "this foul thing—hell's last, most loathsome birth." Even when censorship has justice on its side, we think that names are dangerous things to meddle with, as affording precedents for prejudice or injustice to vent party spleen or private malice, under its self-assumed authority and sanction. If the right be once ad-

mitted, one man's right must be as good as another's—and from that time society lies at the mercy of the meanest. Our author should have remembered that the olden censors were appointed, and not self-nominated officials, and he ought therefore to await a higher nomination. Let it be understood that our observations refer to the individualizing alone. Let public crimes and abuses—let national misdemeanours, committed not by units in our population, but by the body corporate—stand ready for every man to hurl his missile against, until the brutalities which may degrade our national character lie buried at last beneath the stoning process. Of such we hold that relic of barbarism, flogging in the army, to be one—a very blot upon our humanity, and a stain upon our country's escutcheon. We go all lengths with our author in his honest indignation against this practice. It is vain to plead necessity, whilst other lands show us the example of the better acting of a milder jurisdiction ;—and are other countries beyond us and above us in morality and religion ? Protestant Prussia makes expulsion from the army the heaviest punishment for the heaviest crime, and Protestant England resorts—to what ?—to a multiplied lash !

We give an extract full of laudable warmth bearing on this subject ; it will also afford a specimen of the author's straightforward and manly style of versification.

“ When the poor soldier, for a slight offence,
 Which gives his tyrant captain a pretence
 To gratify resentment cherish'd long
 For some imagin'd slight, or fancied wrong :
 But who, though stung to fury, had repress'd
 Awhile the vengeful feelings of his breast ;
 There garner'd, till a fitting moment came,
 To wreak his vengeance under justice' name ;
 And now with greedy joy beholds the hour
 Which puts the helpless soldier in his power—
 When, for such fault, the wretched man's decreed
 Beneath the ‘cat’s’ terrific lash to bleed ;
 And (shame to British manhood !) undergoes
 Its nine times multiplied five hundred blows—
 Go ! mark his future conduct, and deplore
 The mournful change from what he was before !
 Observe him well !—behold his sullen brow,
 Where manly frankness seem'd to dwell but now ;
 There brazen recklessness has set her seal,
 Disgrace he seems no longer now to feel ;
 The pride of honour, or the blush of shame,
 Affect him not—to him 'tis all the same !
 Degraded in his own and others' eyes,
 To drown all thought to drink he madly flies ;
 And character, fame, virtue, all forgot,
 Becomes a dissolute and drunken sot ! ”

“ Heroic Wellington ! thy influence use
 To mitigate this horrible abuse,
 Great as thou art, and worthy of thy fame,
 Afford the sanction of thy mighty name

To aid the cause of fair humanity,
And let the soldier find a friend in thee :
Resign, with that true greatness which denies
Nor error, when its error it despises,
Opinions held of old, though cherish'd long,
If Mercy, join'd with Reason, prove them wrong.
Great in the field, and in the council great,
Placed by thy merit foremost in the state,—
Endow'd with energy and strength of mind
Beyond the usual limits of thy kind ;
With ready judgment, and profound good sense,
Which sees at once through ev'ry weak pretence ;
And wanting which great genius often strays,
And wanders wildly on in folly's ways ;
Call'd to thy country's councils by the voice
Of grateful millions, and thy country's choice
Confirm'd by her whose gentle heart and hand,
With equal justice rules our British land ;
Whose youthful feelings lend her throne a grace
Far more effective than the pomp of place,—
Thy views and sentiments must needs possess
An influence that would command success.
Oh ! then encourage ev'ry milder thought
The sufferings thou hast witness'd must have taught
Thy manly heart ; and banish from the code
Of martial law, that soul-debasing mode
Of punishment, which never can reclaim
A man, but sinks him deeper into shame ;
Which tortures both the body and the mind
Without one useful end, and leaves behind
A bitter burning sense of deep disgrace,
Which no succeeding treatment can efface :
So bitter and so deep, the wretched man
Ne'er cares to act again on virtue's plan ;
But careless of reproach, and reckless grown,
In dissipation seeks his shame to drown.
Do this ! and add fresh laurels to the wreath
(Already far beyond the reach of death)
Which blooms an evergreen upon thy brow.
Do more ! and strike an energetic blow
At that disgraceful system which prevails
Throughout the British army, and entails
Keen disappointment and the grossest wrong
On men subjected to neglect too long ;
Which gives reward according to the birth
Or wealth of candidates, and not their worth!"

A First Grammar, Introductory to the Study of the French Language.
By C. SMYTH, B.A.

Mr. Smyth comes before the world with bold measures—no less than “with a new system of regular and irregular verbs and of tenses, intended as a step towards an improved grammatical system in every language.” We say that this is “a consummation devoutly to be

wished," but whether it can be accomplished is another thing. Innovations are perilous things, and there is danger that, in extricating unsightly and cumbrous masses from the structures of ages, we may loosen and dilapidate the whole building. Nevertheless, if obstructive heaps of rubbish can be wheeled away, doubtless we should have a far more agreeable path to tread. The labour of a student in the preliminary rules of a grammar, and then of their neutralizing exceptions, is very slave-like, and right glad should we be to see the toil lightened. Things that are understood are more than half learned; but the worst of the trouble is, that novices are required to learn what they have no means of understanding. Doubtless it would be matter of congratulation to masses of our rising generation if these difficulties could be fairly and efficiently obviated.

Elements of Electro-Metallurgy; or, the Art of Working in the Metals by the Galvanic Fluid. By ALFRED SMEE, F.R.S.; Surgeon to the General Dispensary, Aldersgate Street; Surgeon to the Bank of England; also to the Provident Clerks' Mutual Benefit Association, &c. &c. Dedicated, by permission, to His Royal Highness Prince Albert.

Electrotyping is among the most extraordinary of modern inventions, and, by its varied application, may fairly be expected to give a new impulse to many of our arts and manufactures. Brilliant as it is in discovery, and almost magical as it is in process, its usefulness fairly promises to surpass both. We have now before us the early numbers of Mr. Smee's work, in which he takes a scientific as well as practical view of this wonder of modern days. The book promises to contain all that can be accumulated of information bearing on the subject, and will prove valuable to all men of science, but indispensable to those who are engaged in arts or manufactures, for in numerous branches of these Electro-Metallurgy will be found improving and applicable; while those who are amassing general information will find ample satisfaction afforded them in this work.

Illustrated by several hundred Engravings on Wood and Steel, A History of the Vegetable Kingdom; embracing the Physiology, Classification, and Culture of Plants, with their various uses to Man and the Lower Animals; and their Application in the Arts, Manufactures, and Domestic Economy. By WILLIAM RHIND, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons; of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, Author of "Elements of Geology," "A Catechism of Botany," &c.

This useful and agreeable work has now reached its termination, and will be found a valuable acquisition to the library, as a book of

reference, as well as affording the florist much useful information in the cultivation of his garden. One of its most agreeable features is the assembling together a sort of history of the vegetable existences, with their applications and uses, so that all that is most important is presented at one view. The young botanist will also find clear and ample instruction, as to the best method of forming his herbarium—a most pleasurable resource for country sojourners.

The Local Historian's Table Book, of Remarkable Occurrences, Historical Facts, Traditions, Legendary Ballads, &c. &c. connected with the Counties of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, and Durham.
By M. A. RICHARDSON, Author of "A Descriptive Companion through Newcastle-upon-Tyne."

This work contains a mass of miscellaneous facts that mark the industry of the compiler. It is full of research and antiquarian lore, and to those who are either residents or connected with the counties of which it treats, it must prove valuable as well as interesting. The amount of pains-taking labour which this work evidences is great indeed.

Elements of Astronomy; adapted for Private Instruction and Use in Schools. By HUGO REID, Lecturer on Natural Philosophy. Illustrated by sixty-six Engravings on wood.

"The author has endeavoured to prepare a little work suited both for private study and the use of schools. In executing his task, he has made it as full and accurate as possible, subdividing the matter at the same time in such a way that it can be thrown into short aphoristic sentences, which will greatly assist the pupil in forming answers to the various questions that may be put to him by his tutor;"—so says the prefatory matter of this elementary book, and we think we cannot speak more in its favour than to allow that it is as successful as its author could desire, and accomplishes all that he proposes. It is clear and lucid, as a book professing to teach ought to be. We like the simple and condensed form of its paragraphs; they have this advantage over the catechetical mode, that they require pupils to use their own phraseology in answering questions, thereby compelling the comprehension of what they are expressing, while it is notorious that replies learnt by rote are more frequently a dead letter than any real improvement. We cordially recommend this little volume for the sake both of teachers and learners.

The Young Scholar's Manual of Elementary Arithmetic; containing a variety of Useful and Practical Examples, systematically arranged, to which are added some easy and simple Mental Calculations; Miscellaneous Questions, Bills of Parcels, Appropriate Tables of Money, Weights, and Measures, &c. designed for the Use of Schools. By THOMAS CARPENTER, Author of "The Scholar's Spelling Assistant," &c. &c.

A very useful little manual, unencumbered by the superfluities of most of its predecessors. More practical than theoretical; more simple than complex; and yet with the addition of variety of instances in the art of computation. The book is extremely well adapted for the use of schools, and from its simplicity we should particularly commend it to ladies' seminaries.

An Introductory Lecture on Pictorial Anatomy. By JAMES MILLER, F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E.

We would cordially recommend this lecture to the attention of every young artist. For ourselves, we are fully persuaded that there is so close a connexion between the skill of the surgeon and the skill of the painter, that it is imperative on both to make themselves masters of anatomical science, if either would make way in his own profession. The artist who would learn the play of a muscle so that he might delineate a passion, ought to take his stand in the dissecting-room, by the side of the surgical tyro who should be studying how to cure a disease. Once again, we earnestly recommend this lecture to the young student in painting.

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LITERARY NEWS.—WORKS IN PROGRESS.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Jameson has just committed to the press her "**HAND-BOOK TO THE PRIVATE PICTURE GALLERIES**," a companion to her late valuable "**Hand-Book to the Public Picture Galleries**." Mrs. Jameson's intimate knowledge of the subject will doubtless render this a welcome addition to the descriptions we already possess of the various collections by which the princely seats of our nobility are distinguished.

The new work entitled "**LIFE IN THE WEST: BACK-WOOD LEAVES AND PRAIRIE FLOWERS**," is just ready, and, we have had the pleasure of giving a notice of it in our present number, from an early copy with which we have been favoured. As our readers will perceive, we have been greatly pleased with its perusal.

A lady of very promising talent has in progress a new work, entitled "**EVELYN; OR, MISTAKEN POLICY**," a Domestic Tale, of which the private opinion of competent judges speaks highly.

Mrs. Moulton has nearly ready a beautiful little poem, entitled "THE SEPULCHRE OF LAZARUS," and other Poems, which will appear speedily.

The Viscountess St. Jean's new work, "SKETCHES FROM A TRAVELLING JOURNAL," with her own very beautiful drawings, is nearly ready.

Just ready, "NOTES OF A TOUR IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS OF LANCASHIRE," in a Series of Letters to his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin. By W. Cooke Taylor, LL.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, author of "The Natural History of Society," &c.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Kept at Edmonton. Latitude 51° 37' 32" N. Longitude 3° 51" West of Greenwich.

The mode of keeping these registries is as follows:—At Edmonton the warmth of the day is observed by means of a thermometer exposed to the north in the shade, standing about four feet above the surface of the ground. The extreme cold of the night is ascertained by a horizontal self-registering thermometer in a similar situation. The daily range of the barometer and thermometer is known from observations made at intervals of four hours each, from eight in the morning till the same time in the evening. The weather and the direction of the wind are the result of the most frequent observations. The rain is measured every morning at eight o'clock.

1842.	Range of Ther.	Range of Barom.	Prevailing Winds.	Rain in Inches	Prevailing Weather.
June					
23	16-68	29,79-29,74	S.W.	,05	Clear, except the evening, cloudy and gusty.
24	18-67	29,65-29,64	S.W.	,045	Cloudy, rain in the morning.
25	16-64	29,83-29,57	S.W.	,04	Showery.
26	11-68	29,63-29,89	S.W.	,05	Generally clear.
27	14-68	30,08-30,20	W.		Clear.
28	10-73	30,21-30,12	S.W.		Clear.
29	11-74	30,03-30,00	S.W.		Clear.
30	13-70	29,91-29,79	N.E.	,005	Cloudy, raining generally after noon.
July					
1	19-62	29,72-29,82	N.W. and W.	,66	Rain in the morning, otherwise generally clear.
2	19-63	29,82-29,86	S.W.	,405	Morning showery, afternoon clear.
3	17-66	29,91- stat.	S.W.		Morning clear, afternoon cloudy.
4	14-73	29,75-29,64	S.W.	,035	Morning misty rain, afternoon cloudy.
5	18-68	29,61-29,80	S.W.	,01	Generally clear.
6	17-64	29,96-30,13	W. & W. b. N.		Morning clear, afternoon cloudy.
7	12-61	30,08-29,94	S. & S. b. E.		Cloudy, rain about noon.
8	19-64	29,78-29,61	S.W. and S.	,1	Cloudy, afternoon showery, heavy rain in even.
9	17-67	29,65-29,69	W. and S. W.	,385	Morning clear, afternoon overcast, with rain.
10	18-68	29,84-29,86	S.W. and S.	,02	Generally clear.
11	10-74	29,60-29,62	S.		Morning cloudy, intervals of sunshine, even. rain.
12	13-71	29,80-30,00	W.S.W.		Clear.
13	18-70	30,08-30,14	S. and S.W.		Generally cloudy, a shower in the evening.
14	17-72	30,25-30,33	S.W.	,005	Clear.
15	16-72	30,33-30,25	N.		Clear.
16	17-68	30,18-30,02	N.E.		Clear.
17	12-69	29,93-29,81	E.		Generally cloudy.
18	14-73	29,80-29,84	S.W.		Generally cloudy.
19	17-71	29,85-29,77	N.E. & E.b.S.	,045	Generally cloudy, rain at times.
20	12-67	29,72-29,69	S.W. and W.	,04	Generally cloudy, rain at times.
21	10-61	29,60-29,78	N.W.	,3	Generally cloudy, rain at times.
22	16-61	29,90-30,05	N.W. and N.	,03	Generally cloudy, except the morning.

Edmonton.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

The lethargy which has of late been prevailing in our commercial concerns has experienced considerable stimulus in the commencing operation of the New Tariff. The reduced scale of duties has excited some bustle and energy in the mercantile world, and the revenue must assuredly feel considerable augmentation through the revival; but whether the renovation springs from mere reaction after great depression, or is in fact the successful working of the new system, requires some short time to decipher. There has been a good supply of English wheat in the market, and large arrivals of foreign. In tea there has been some activity, the deliveries large, and the market firm. A considerable quantity of coffee has paid duty under the New Tariff. West India sugar has been in good request. The demand for cotton has been brisk, without much fluctuation of price. In wool the demand and the supply have been more extensive, and the prices fairly sustained. The colonial wool sales in London are now occupying much of the manufacturers attention. In the cloth market prices are not lower, though they may not be much improved. Great stocks are still on hand, and capitalists do not seem inclined to speculate. On the whole, we hope that things are wearing a somewhat improving aspect.

PRICES OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS,

On Wednesday, 27th of July.

ENGLISH STOCKS.

Bank Stock, 167, 108.—Consols, 91 one-eighth.—Three per Cents. Reduced, 91 three-fourths.—Three and a Half per Cents. Reduced, 100 three-fourths.—Exchequer Bills New, 1000*l.*, 2*d.*, 5*s.* pr.—India Bonds, 30*s.* 33*s.* pr.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian Five per Cents. 65.—Dutch Two and a Half per Cent., 51 one-half.—Spanish, with May coupons, 20 seven-eighths.—Dutch 5 per Cents. 101 one-half.—Mexican, Debentures, 19 one-fourth.

MONEY MARKET.—The New Tariff having given holders encouragement of better employment of capital, has operated in occasioning some depression in the funds. The disastrous death of the Duke of Orleans has also not been without its effect on the money market. Exchequer bills have been firm. It is said that there is at present an agent from Washington busily occupied in endeavouring to raise a loan of twelve million of dollars, but that he meets with no encouragement in his negotiation, and it is anticipated that he will altogether fail. A large coinage of silver has been issued to meet the existing demand.

BANKRUPTS.

FROM JUNE 21, 1842, TO JULY 22, 1842, INCLUSIVE.

June 21.—W^t. J. Burgie, Beer-lane, Tower-street, carpenter.—J. J. Grant, Gloucester-street, Bloomsbury, ale merchant.—G. E. Cartwright, Marlow, chemist.—E. T. Gough, Strand, patent agent.—J. G. Bourne, Clapham, carpenter.—J. H. Clark, and H. C. Farrow, King William-street, wine merchants.—W. Mainwaring, Dudley, coal master.—R. Cockrill, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire, grocer.—P. Walters and M. Llewellyn, Neath, Glamorganshire, timber merchants.—W. Belton, Deeping St. James, Lincolnshire, draper.—M. Thomas, Manchester, innkeeper.—T. Pitcairn, Liverpool, merchant.

—J. Ormrod, Holme, Lancashire, builder.—J. Swann, Loughborough, carrier.—J. Polman, Settle, Yorkshire, wine merchant.—W. Watts, King's Lynn, grocer.

June 24.—J. Batstone, Tooley-street, South-wark, builder.—W. Bilton, jun., Kingston-upon-Hull, wine merchant.—G. Gibson, Liverpool, stock broker.—M. A. Hartnell, Rodborough, Gloucestershire, common carrier.—E. Hilton and N. Walsh, Over Darwen, Lancashire, paper makers.—W. Goode, Monmouthshire, draper.—T. Nevins, Leeds, cloth manufacturer.—J. Fisher and G. H. Fisher, Manchester, ware-

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housemen.—S. Life, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, milliner.—J. Sanderson, Crawshaw Booth, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer.

June 28—G. E. Rothe, New Broad-street, City, merchant.—J. Flood, Dean-street, Westminster, surgeon.—J. and J. Hudson, senior and junior, Swallow-place, Hanover-square, carriers.—J. Collison, South Molton lane, carpenter.—T. Jones, Hockliffe, farmer.—T. Woodman, Great Billington, Bedfordshire, farmer.—J. Holland, Chepping Wycombe, cordwainer.—M. Otley, St. James's-street, milliner.—T. Williams, Bristol, tailor and draper.—J. S. Aird, East Herrington, Durham, cattle salesman.—J. Hoskins, Crocombe, Somersetshire, baker.—R. and R. Steane, Coventry, ribbon manufacturers.—T. and T. Humphrey, senior and junior, Kingston-upon-Hull, shipwrights.

July 1—G. Chalk, Broadway, Hammersmith, builder.—M. Foster, Crosby-hall Chambers, merchant.—J. Clay, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, draper.—D. Howard, Swallow-street, Regent-street, victualler.—D. W. Acraman, W. E. Acraman, A. J. Acraman, W. Morgan, T. Hollroyd, and J. N. Franklyn, Bristol, ship builders.—G. F. Fairclough, Liverpool, money scrivener.—T. Dugdale, Manchester, grocer.—G. Sargent, Battle, Sussex, linendraper.—J. Layton, Leeds, fruit merchant.—A. Collingwood, Stoke-upon-Trent, maltster.—J. S. Aird, East Herrington, Durham, cattle salesman.

July 5—E. Poore, Bampton, Devonshire, druggist.—J. Smith, Hoo Mill, Warwickshire, miller.—J. Johnson, Manchester, quilting manufacturer.—R. Hentig, Kingston upon-Hull, merchant.—T. Aspinall, Halifax, worsted spinner.—J. Robinson, Dundalk, county Louth, commission merchant.—G. Hawley, Goole, coal merchant.—G. Renoldson, South Shields, miller.—C. Rutherford, Birmingham, builder.—R. F. Watkinson, and W. Haig, Huddersfield, woollen cloth merchants.

July 8—J. Hawkins, Maidenhead, butcher.—J. P. Graves, Mortimer street, Cavendish-square, auctioneer.—J. Hooper, Austinfriars, tea dealer.—D. Pau, Red Lion-wharf, coal merchant.—G. T. F. Johnson, Norwich, chemist.—J. Brookbanks, Dudley, mercer.—S. Evans, Oswestry, linendraper.—H. Wood, Manchester, stuff merchant.—T. and W. Wilson, Manchester, hat trimming manufacturers.—J. Johnson, Manchester, quilting manufacturer.—J. Sparham, Froston, Suffolk, miller.

July 12—G. H. Harrison, Moorgate-street, merchant.—L. Durlacher, Old Burlington-street, St. James's, dealer in pictures.—J. Fisher, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, draper.—D. Barbour and J. Norris, Liverpool, soap boilers.—T. Endicote, Bath, innkeeper.—S. Jacobson, Newcastle upon-Tyne, picture dealer.—E. S. and F. Messiter, Malmesbury, tailors.—W. Parr, Smallthorn, Norton in the Moors, Staffordshire, shopkeeper.—P. Humphreys, Cholmondeley, Cheshire, builder.—J. Clegg, Manchester, silk manufacturer.—T. Evans, Darwen, Lancashire, ironfounder.—R. Williams, Alvington, Gloucestershire, farmer.—J. P. Thirkell, Cranbrook, Kent, farmer.

July 15—C. Brayshaw, Great Castle-street, Regent-street, tailor.—E. F. Green, Leadenhall-street, merchant.—G. H. Watson, Moscow-road, Bayswater, apothecary.—W. Mills, Caterham, Surrey, innholder.—W. Fletcher, Birmingham, oilman.—W. Downing, Sheffield, draper.—E. Moss, Liverpool, draper.—J. W. Palmer, Old Buckenham, Norfolk, general shopkeeper.—E. Rogers, Great Witley, Worcestershire, surgeon.—J. H. Jackson, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, grocer.—A. Bower, Basford, Staffordshire, banker.—T. Lediard, Cirencester, scrivener.

July 19—C. M. Darby, Regent-street, St. Marylebone, printer.—D. Low, Adam-street, Old Broad-street, City, merchant.—J. Atkinson, and J. Atkinsen, jun., Coulston, Surrey, lime merchants.—J. W. Vegg, Cloak-lane, City, bookseller.—J. Sturt, Liverpool, draper.—J. Bolshaw, Liverpool, sailmaker.—J. S. Spinks and J. Molson, Liverpool, coal merchants.—T. Brooke, J. Lang, J. Wilby, and J. Milnes, Liversedge, Yorkshire, blanket manufacturers.—J. Rate, Eastgate, Lincolnshire, feltmonger.—W. Williams, Goudhurst, Kent, wheelwright.—S. Brown, Liverpool, millwright.—S. H. Smyth, Cambridge, coachmaker.—J. Sparham, Trottton, Suffolk, miller.

July 22—J. Mills, London wall, City, canal carrier.—H. and R. Fawcett, Stockton-on-Tees, timber-merchants.—G. Skipp, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, cider merchant.—C. Timmis, Stone, Staffordshire, flint grinder.—W. Seddon, and F. Jordan, St. Helen's, Lancaster, millers.—L. Yablonsky, Birmingham, jeweller.—S. Rushton, Nottingham, ironmonger.—J. Walsh, and E. Halford, Nottingham, tailors.

NEW PATENTS.

W. Young, of Queen Street, London, Lamp Maker, for improvements in lamps and candlesticks. May 28th, 6 months.

P. J. Kayser, of Gracechurch Street, for improvements in the construction of lamps. May 31st, 6 months.

H. Phillips, of Exeter, Chemist, for improvements in purifying gas for purposes of light. May 31st, 6 months.

R. W. Junior, of Cloth Fair, London, Gas Fitter, for improvements in draining land, embankments, and cutting of railways, and other engineering works. May 31st, 6 months.

H. Wilkinson, of Pall Mall, Gun Maker, for improvements in unloading shipping, especially those vessels called colliers. May 31st, 6 months.

L. N. de Meckenheim, of Austria, but now of London, Engineer, for improvements in the manufacture of iron. May 31st, 6 months.

H. B. Leeson, of Greenwich, Doctor of Medicine, for improvements in the art of

depositing and manufacturing metals and metal articles, by electrogalvanic agency, and in the apparatus connected therewith. June 1st, 6 months.

W. H. Kempton, of South Street, Pentonville, Gentleman, for improvements in the manufacture of candles. June 1st, 6 months.

J. Reid, of Bishop Stortford, Statuary and Mason, for improvements in tiles, slating, and the construction of water-tight joints, and in the covering and casing of buildings and other erections. June 2nd, 6 months.

H. Jubber, of Oxford, Confectioner, for certain improvements in kitchen ranges, and apparatus for cooking. June 2nd, 6 months.

B. Aingworth, of Birmingham, Gentleman, for certain improvements in the manufacture of glass, for the purpose of producing glass which may be used for the purposes to which plate-glass and window-glass are usually applied. June 4th, 6 months.

E. Tuck, of the Haymarket, Silversmith, for certain improvements in the covering, or plating with silver, various metals, and metallic alloys. June 4th, 6 months.

W. Irving, of Regent Street, Lambeth, Engineer, for an improved corn drill or machine for sowing all kinds of seed or grain. June 7th, 6 months.

J. Woodcock, of Manchester, Millwright, for certain improvements in the construction of steam-engines. June 7th, 6 months.

J. Nasmyth, of Manchester, Engineer, for certain improvements in machinery or apparatus for forging, stamping, and cutting iron and other substances. June 9th, 6 months.

C. Searle, of Bath, Gentleman, for improved preparations of tea, coffee, cocoa, and milk. June 9th, 6 months.

J. Chatwin, of Birmingham, Lamp Maker, for certain improvements in the construction of cocks. June 9th, 6 months.

J. G. Hughes, of the Strand, General Agent, for a new application of telegraphic signals, and the mode of applying the same. June 9th, 6 months.

J. A. Amslie, of the borough and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Civil Engineer, for certain improvements in pumps. June 9th, 6 months.

S. Bencraft, of Barnstaple, Gentleman, for improvements in the construction of saddle-trees. June 9th, 6 months.

A. H. Holdsworth, Brook Hill, Devon, Gentleman, for improvements in constructing certain parts of ships and vessels, in order to arrest the progress of fire, and for regulating temperature. June 11th, 6 months.

R. Garrett, of Leiston Works, Suffolk, Agricultural Implement Maker, for improvements in the construction of horse-shoes, scarifier, drag-rakes, and drills for cultivating land. June 13th, 6 months.

T. Banks, of Manchester, Engineer, for certain improvements in the construction of wheels and tyres of wheels to be employed upon railways. June 13th, 6 months.

M. Poole, of Lincoln's Inn, Gentleman, for improvements in obtaining the colouring matter from wool and woollens dyed with indigo. June 13th, 6 months.

W. Cotton, of Leytonstone, Essex, Esquire, for an improved weighing machine. June 13th, 2 months.

D. Williams, of Oxford, Slater, for improvements in covering ridges and hips of the roofs of buildings. June 13th, 6 months.

Isaac Moss, of Macclesfield, Silk Trimming Manufacturer, for improvements in the manufacture of covered buttons, ornaments, and fastenings for wearing apparel. June 13th, 6 months.

W. M. Williams, of 163, Fenchurch Street, Lock Manufacturer, for certain improvements in the construction of locks and keys, which he proposes to call "Williams's Lock and Key improved." June 13th, 6 months.

H. H. Watson, of Bolton Le Moors, Consulting Chemist, for certain improvements in bleaching, changing the colour of, and otherwise preparing, purifying, and refining tallow, and certain other organic substances, mixtures, compounds, and manufactures. June 21st, 6 months.

J. Bunnett, of Deptford, Engineer, for certain improvements in pavements for streets, roads, and other surfaces, and in machinery for producing and repairing the same. June 21st, 6 months.

J. Dickson, of Brook Street, Holborn, Engineer, for improvements in rotatory-engines and boilers, in stopping railway-carriges, and in machinery for propelling vessels, part of which improvements are applicable to propelling air and gases. June 21st, 6 months.

F. Gye, Junior, of South Lambeth, Surrey, Gentleman, for improvements in binding pamphlets, papers, and other documents. June 21st, 6 months.

T. Gaunt, of Dalby Terrace, City Road, Gentleman, for improvements in the means of applying any such power as is or may be used for propelling vessels or carriages to produce locomotion thereof. June 21st, 6 months.

H. Beuley, of Dublin, Licentiate Apothecary and Chemist, for an improved chalybeate water. June 23rd, 6 months.

HISTORICAL REGISTER.

HOUSE OF LORDS—June 23.—Several bills were advanced a stage.

June 24.—The Copyright Bill was read a third time and passed.

June 25.—No House.

June 27.—The Public Houses Bill was read a first time and passed.—Lord Denman moved the second reading of his bill for relieving the Dissenters from the necessity of taking an oath in cases of judicial investigations, which meeting with opposition, was referred to a committee.

June 28.—The Irish Municipal Bill was brought up from the Commons, and read a first time.—A committee was appointed for investigating the administration of oaths.—Lord Mountcashel moved that all the letters addressed to Mr. Phelan, a poor law commissioner in Ireland, who had neglected to comply with an order of their Lordships to provide certain returns relative to the medical charities of Ireland, on the table, but the motion was negatived.—The Lord Chancellor proposed a short bill to postpone the operation of the Justices' Bill for a season, to prevent it coming into operation in the middle of the quarter session; the bill was read a first time.

June 29.—No House.

June 30.—The royal assent was given by commission to various bills.—The Earl of Mountcashel drew the notice of the House to the extensive emigration going on from this country to Canada, and asked if the government meant to execute certain public works in that country, to which the Duke of Wellington replied in the affirmative.—The New Tariff Bill was read a first time.

July 1.—The royal assent was given by commission to the Justices' Jurisdiction Amendment Bill, the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Amendment Bill, the Public Houses Regulation Bill, the Copyright Bill, and the North American Colonial Association of Ireland Bill.—The Earl of Radnor moved the production of certain returns connected with the importation of corn, which was agreed to.—The bills on the table were advanced a stage.

July 2.—No House.

July 4.—Some conversation took place respecting the assessment of the Income Tax.

July 5.—The Earl of Ripon moved the second reading of the New Tariff Bill.—Lord Stanhope moved as an amendment that the bill be read that day six months, but the second reading was carried by a large majority.

July 6.—No House.

July 7.—The Mines and Collieries Bill, and the Sudbury Disfranchisement Bill were each read a first time.—The House went into committee on the New Tariff Bill.—Earl Stanhope moved that the duty on imported cattle should be by weight instead of count, but his motion was lost by 44 to 8.—The entire schedule passed through committee.

July 8.—Some conversation respecting the mines and collieries took place.—On the motion that the New Tariff Bill should be read a third time, Earl Stanhope divided the House, when there appeared for it, 52; against it, 9.—The Railways Bill was read a second time.

July 9.—The royal assent was given by commission to the Customs Act (Tariff) Bill, the Forest of Dean Poor Bill, the York Cathedral Bill, and some private bills.

July 11.—The Duke of Buccleuch gave in the report of the select committee that

the Collieries and Mines Bill should be proceeded with, upon which it was read a second time. The Marquis of Clauricarde introduced a bill to indemnify the witnesses to be examined on the proposed disfranchisement of Sudbury, it appearing that their Lordships could not proceed through the matter without taking evidence for themselves.—Lord Brougham presented petitions on the distressed state of the country, and moved that they should be referred to a committee of inquiry, but his motion was negatived by 61 to 14.

July 12.—Some conversation took place respecting the educational grants, and their inefficiency.

July 13.—No House.

July 14.—The British Possessions Bill passed through committee.—The House went into committee on the Railways Bill. Lord Campbell moved the insertion of a clause forbidding the locking up of passengers, but the motion was negatived by 35 to 31. The remaining clauses were agreed to.—The Queen's Personal Protection Bill was brought up from the House of Commons and read a first time.—The Mines and Collieries Bill was read a second time.—The Charitable Powers (Ireland) Bill passed through committee.

July 15.—The British Possessions Abroad Bill was read a third time and passed.—The Queen's Personal Protection Bill was read a second time, and the bill was passed with one or two amendments, the standing orders of the House being suspended for that purpose. The New South Wales Bill was read a second time, and the Mines and Collieries Bill committed *pro forma*.

July 16.—No House.

July 18.—The Lord Chancellor's three New Law Bills respecting Bankruptcy, the Treatment of Lunatics, and for Establishing County Courts, were read a second time.

July 19.—Lord Wharncliffe moved the committee on the Irish Drainage Bill, which was opposed by the Earl of Glengall, who moved that the bill should be referred to a select committee. After some discussion the House divided, and the amendment was negatived by 30 to 6.—The bill then went through committee and was ordered to be brought up.

July 20.—No House.

July 21.—The bills on the table were forwarded a stage.

July 22.—Lord Radnor called the attention of the House to the existing distress of the country, and moved for the returns connected with the importation of foreign corn, flour, &c. The returns were ordered.—Lord Brougham laid upon the table a Bill for the Improvement of the Law of Imprisonment for Debt, with a view to relax its severity and to afford greater facility to creditors for obtaining possession of the property of their debtors. He also brought in a Bill for facilitating Voluntary Arrangements between Debtors and Creditors. The two bills were severally read a first time.

July 23.—The Irish Fisheries Bill, the Poor Law Commissioners Bill, and some private bills were brought up from the Commons and read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—June 25.—No House.

June 27.—Some conversation took place respecting the Compromise Committee, and on certain fugitives in Canada, charged with crime, being given up to the United States, the papers on which last case were to be laid before the House.—The House then resolved itself into committee on the Poor Law Bill.—Mr. Wakley moved that the first clause continuing the commission, should be postponed till the other clauses should have been gone through, but the motion was negatived by 206 to 74.—The committee got through the first clause.

June 28.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to some questions, stated that the new coinage of the half-farthing was intended for use in the colonies.—On the motion for the third reading of the Customs Bill, the Act for embodying the Tariff, Mr. Jervis moved for the allowing a drawback on those coals which, having been exported, should be re-shipped in any British steamer for her own consumption; after long discussion, the motion was negatived.—Mr. T. Duncombe moved that the duty on onion seed should take place at the same time with those on other seeds, but the motion was lost. He also moved for the reduction of the duty on squared corks, which was likewise negatived.—The Tariff Bill was then read a third time and passed.

June 29.—No House.

June 30.—Sir Robert Peel produced copies of the ratified treaties between the home country and Texas.—Lord Mahon called the attention of the House to the present state of the drama.—Mr. Knight moved an address to the Queen, praying for copies of certain ukases issued by the Russian government in 1841, relating to the administration of Poland, which gave rise to some conversation relating to that country, and the policy of Russia towards it, at the close of which the motion was agreed to.—Lord Clements moved for a select committee to inquire into the administration of the Grand Jury laws in the county of Donegal, but the motion was negatived.

July 1.—The New South Wales Bill was read a third time and passed.—It was announced by Lord Stanley that the Queen had given her assent to the crown revenues being appropriated to the purposes of the Bill.—The Stock-in-Trade Bill was read a third time and passed.—The Manchester, Birmingham, and Bolton Police Bill, and the Ordnance Surveys Bill, were severally read a second time.—Lord John Russell moved the second reading of the Bribery at Elections Bill, which was agreed to.—On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. Wallace brought forward some resolutions relative to the existing distress of the country, which gave rise to a debate, which was at length adjourned till the Monday.—On the motion that the Mines and Collieries Bill be read a third time, Mr. Ainsworth moved the adjournment of the bill, which was agreed to.

July 2.—No House.

July 4.—No House.

July 5.—In consequence of there not having been members enough assembled to constitute a House on Monday, the orders which stood for that day lapsed into dropped orders.—Mr. Hume moved eight resolutions against augmenting church livings out of the public revenue, which were negatived.—The House went into committee for the formation of resolutions on which to found a bill for the better government of the colony of South Australia.—The Mines and Collieries Bill was read a third time and passed.

July 6.—No House.

July 7.—Mr. Hume moved for a select committee to inquire into the proceedings of the Commissioners for the National Debt, &c. from 1836 to 1841, but, on a division, was defeated by 173 to 34.—Mr. Sergeant Murphy proposed a motion which had for its object the propriety of altering or abolishing the provision of ministers in cities and corporate towns in Ireland, on which the House divided, and the motion was rejected by 85 to 56.—Sir R. H. Inglis moved that all parties interested in the investigations of the Election Compromise Committees should have a right of entrance, on which a discussion took place, ending in a division, when there appeared, for the motion, 121, against it, 49.—Mr. Bannerman moved the following resolution:—“That it is the opinion of this House that, considering the present state of the country, it would be highly expedient to vest in her present most gracious Majesty similar authority to that which was given to her predecessors, and this House, before the close of this session, will cheerfully acquiesce in granting such powers as may enable her Majesty, with the advice of her privy council, to reduce or discontinue, should circumstances so require, the duties which now regulate the importation of foreign corn until the 1st of January, 1843, or for six weeks after the commencement of the next session of parliament.” After discussion the House divided, when the motion was lost by 113 to 175.

July 8.—On a motion of Mr. Ewart, returns were ordered of the vessels, stores, &c. employed in the Niger expedition.—On the motion of Mr. R. Yorke returns were ordered of the expenses incurred by the candidates at the several elections in England and Wales in the months of June and July 1840 and 1841.—On the motion of Mr. M. J. O'Connell, it was ordered that no new writ do issue for the borough of Sudbury until the 12th of August.—The House then entered on a long discussion on the distress of the country and the formation of resolutions for its relief, and after motions for the adjournment of the debate, and for the adjournment of the House, a division took place on the resolutions, when there appeared for the motion, 49; against it, 174.

July 9.—The Speaker, accompanied by a small number of members, proceeded to the Lords to hear the royal assent given to certain bills.

July 11.—On the motion for going into a committee of supply, Mr. Villiers moved for a committee of the whole House to consider of repealing the Corn Laws. After considerable discussion the House divided, when there appeared, for the committee

of supply, 231; for the committee on the Corn Laws, 117.—The votes for expenses incurred in China and Canada were agreed to without opposition, after which the Committee of Supply was postponed until the next day.

July 12.—Sir Robert Peel brought in a bill for the better security of her Majesty's person, with the intent of dispensing, when it might be deemed necessary, with the formalities observed in the examination and trials of persons charged with high treason, and to inflict the punishment of transportation and *personal chastisement* on persons guilty of the wanton and cruel modes of alarm and annoyance recently practised. The bill was read a first and second time.—Some discussion arose respecting the renewal of the Poor Law Commission, during which the government manifested a disposition to concede the point of not pressing the entire bill. On the House going into committee on this subject, Mr. S. Crawford moved as an amendment, the reducing the term of the commission to one year, on which the House divided, when there appeared for the amendment 92; against it 164. The clause that the commission should continue for five years was then affirmed by a majority of 146 to 26.

July 13.—The Queen's Protection Bill passed through committee, and was read a third time.—The House went into a Committee of Supply.—Mr. Hume moved that there should be a reduction of 21,000*l.* from the vote appropriated for the expenses of the House of Lords, but his motion was negatived by 90 to 23, and the original vote was agreed to.

July 14.—On the motion of Mr. Shiel, returns connected with the clergy reserves in Canada were ordered.—Mr. Hume moved for a copy of the last patent constituting the commission for executing the office of Lord High Admiral, with a return of the names and rank of the officers constituting the commission, their services, and various other particulars connected with their promotion. The greater part of Mr. Hume's motion was negatived by 99 to 23, the remainder granted.

July 15.—The House received the Queen's Personal Protection Bill back from the Lords with two amendments, which were read and agreed to.—A vote of 30,000*l.*, to defray the expenses of national education, was passed, together with some other estimates.

July 16.—No House.

July 18.—Mr. Shiel moved for the correspondence respecting the restoration of Mr. St. George to the magistracy in Ireland, from which he had been dismissed, but the motion was lost by 146 to 75.—The House went into a Committee of Supply, and a vote for the militia estimates was agreed to.

July 19.—On the order of the day being read for the further consideration of the Poor Law Amendment Bill, Sir J. Graham said that the government would be satisfied with a short bill, embodying the first five clauses of the bill before the House and a few others; the remainder should be postponed until the next session, and subjected to re-consideration.—Mr. S. Crawford moved that power should be given to the commissioners to order relief for the poor of Ireland on the out-door labour test, but the motion was negatived by 112 to 11.—Mr. Fielden moved that, before proceeding with the Poor Law Bill, an inquiry should be instituted as to whether the change in the Poor Law had been productive of rise in wages, contentment, and diminution of crime.—The motion was negatived by 125 to 8.—The House then went into committee, and a discussion arose upon the second clause, as to the amount of power to be vested in the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners.—Sir J. Graham moved a proviso to meet the opposing wishes, but Captain Pechell divided the House, when there appeared for the clause, 59, against it, 9.—On the twenty-third clause, allowing guardians to set the paupers to work, subject to the commissioner, Mr. S. Crawford divided the House, but the clause was carried by 84 to 8.—Mr. Darby moved the insertion of a clause to prevent any parish governed by a local act from being interfered with by the Poor Law, unless with the consent of two-thirds of the guardians of such parish, but the motion was negatived by 91 to 42.—The remaining clauses under the proposed limitation were then agreed to. After which the House went into committee on the South Australian Bill.

July 20.—Mr. Gladstone moved the second reading of the Bonded Corn Bill, which was carried on a division by 116 to 29.—On the report of the Poor Law Amendment Bill being brought up Mr. Escott moved an additional clause for empowering guardians to grant out-door relief at their discretion.—On a division, the clause was rejected by 116 to 29.—Sir J. Graham brought up a clause authorizing parties accused before commissioners of special inquiry, to attend the counsel or

agents, which was agreed to.—The House went into committee of supply, and on the vote for Maynooth being moved, some discussion arose, upon which the House divided, when the grant was affirmed by 95 to 48.

July 21.—Mr. T. Duncombe moved a resolution that an address should be presented to her Majesty to the effect that if the distress of the country should continue unabated, her Majesty would resummon parliament at an early period for its amelioration. The motion was negatived by 147 to 91.—The report of the committee of supply was agreed to.—The House divided on the third reading of the South Australia Bill, which was carried by 68 to 15, and the bill was read a third time and passed.—The report of the Customs' Act Amendment Bill was agreed to.

July 22.—The New Poor Law Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed, with an additional clause enabling the guardians to appoint local committees to receive applications from the poor residing at a distance from the place of meeting of the guardians.—On the motion of going into committee, Mr. Gibson moved the appointment of a committee of the whole House to take into consideration the distressed state of the country, but the motion was negatived by 156 to 64. The House then went into Committee of Supply *pro forma*.

July 23.—The House resolved itself into committee on the Designs Copyright Bill, which went through committee, and was, with amendments, reported. The Lunacy Bill was read a second time.—The Manchester, Birmingham, and Bolton Police Bill was read a third time and passed.

MISCELLANEOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL, &c.

COAL FLOORS.—The stratum on which the coal rests is always carefully noticed by practical miners, who believe that where a thin seam is found on a thick argillaceous floor full of *Stigmaria*, it is certain to become workable if followed. The floors are of three kinds—the *fire clay*, which is the most abundant; the *warrant*, a clay mixed with a larger amount of silica occurring frequently; and the *rock floors*, of which but two instances are known, namely, the floor of the Featheredge coal at Walmersley, which is a rough quartzose sandstone, and the Gannister. The latter is merely a fine grained admixture of silica and alumina, varying from eight inches to two feet in thickness, always graduating into a fine fire-clay at its bottom. All the floors, with the exception of the rock floor of the Featheredge coal, contain *Stigmaria ficoides*, from the thin seams of the Ardwick limestone, to the two seams in the millstone grit of Gauxholme, near Todmorden, a thickness of nearly 1,600 yards; all the fifteen floors of the Manchester coal-field contain it, and at least sixty-nine beds in the middle and lower divisions. The *Stigmaria* generally occurs with its leaves attached, and in all instances of *true floors* without any intermixture of other plants. These facts seem to indicate that all the deposits were formed under nearly similar conditions; the roofs and floors were evidently very quietly deposited, and formed a strong clay, well adapted for the growth of the vast masses of vegetable matter required for the formation of the coal seams. The absence of alkalies in the clay of the floors might be expected from the exhausting properties of plants, and seems to strengthen the supposition that these beds supported the vegetation which now constitutes the coal. The remains of bivalve shells and fishes in the *cannel* beds prove that they were formed under water; but in the Lancashire coal-field, no remains of fishes or shells have yet been found in the coal, nor is there any indication, either by admixture of sand or silt in the seams of coal, to show that they were drifted into the places they now occupy by rapid currents of water. The occurrence of forests of large trees standing upright on the seams, the pure vegetable matter composing the coal itself, with scarce any admixture of foreign ingredients, the position of the coal upon a rich alluvial deposit well adapted to sustain a luxuriant vegetation, seem to prove that, in most instances, the vegetable matter forming it grew upon the spot where the coal is now found; whilst the splitting and alterations in the thickness of the seams themselves, show that the surface was most probably subject to frequent subsidences.—*Athenaeum*.

DUCTILITY OF GLASS.—The Conservator of the Museum of Avignon has remarked, that all the glass vases found buried at Vaison, were so soft and ductile, when first discovered, that they might be kneaded up and cut with a knife-blade, but that they assumed the fragility and hardness of common glass, after a few hours' exposure to the air. This remark applied only to the vases buried at a depth of at least three metres.

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